Artists of Song and Drama Division. The facilities like CGHS and allotment of residential accommodation have been extended to the Staff Artists wherever such facilities exist. The issues regarding grant of pension and extension of Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme to the Staff Artists of Song and Drama Division are under consideration of the Government.

Import of foodgrains

3003. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have importing foodgrains;

(b) if so, what are the details of the foodgrains imported during 1987-88 (June) item-wise and quantity-wise; and

(c) what are the reasons for continuing the policy of importing the foodgrains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) There was no import of wheat or rice during 1987-88. However, a quantity of one million tonnes of wheat and 7 lakh tonnes of rice were contracted for import during 1988-89 till 30th June, 1988, to replenish the buffer stocks. Also, a quantity of about 79 thousand tonnes of maize was imported till 30-6-1988.

Impact of Technology Mission on Oilseeds

3004. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports of edible oils to be halved by 1990 due to R & D efforts and Technology Mission on Oilseeds as reported (section F.E. 12-7-88);

(b) what is the total financial inputs under (a) above during the current plan;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite much larger inputs for milk production enhancement, gift and commercial imports are unabated due to failure of R & D efforts of ICAR;

(d) what is the total investment on dairy development aimed at increasing milk production during the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The development efforts of various partner agencies of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds are expected to increase oilseed production, under normal monsoon condition, to a level which will help halve oil imports.

(b) The financial inputs under R & D efforts concerning oilseeds/edible oils by ICAR and CSIR during the Seventh Plan are Rs. 24.05 crores and Rs. 3.6 crores respectively. This excludes research activities on oilseeds by ICAR Institutes dealing with multi-crop research.

During the Seventh Plan, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a farmer-support scheme called National Oilseeds Development Project with an outlay of Rs. 170 crores out of which Rs. 100 crores is the share of the Central Government. Another similar scheme called the Oilseeds Production Thrust Project has been initiated since 1986-87. Outlay of Rs. 19 crores and 35 crores have been provided during 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively to the States on a hundred percent Central assistance basis.

(c) ICAR research efforts in animal science have resulted in the development of breeding technologies